

### **Ambassador Butenis Compliments American Corner-Chittagong for Sharing America with the Community**

Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis visited the American Corner in Chittagong on September 12. After being greeted by Dr. Syed Sufderul Huq, Coordinator of the Independent University Bangladesh, Chittagong Campus - the host institution for the Center - and other university officials, she toured the university campus and the American Corner. The Ambassador complimented the Center on its rich resources made available to the Chittagong public, and for providing access and valuable opportunities for the community to learn about U.S. culture, history, and politics. Corner Coordinator Ms. Sabrina Hossain briefed the Ambassador on membership facilities, and the profiles and interests of its members.



The Ambassador also met with ten journalists at the Center, which resulted in extensive press coverage of her visit in both the Bangla and English newspapers. The Ambassador's visit was greatly appreciated by the Corner, and served to boost the confidence and interest of the Corner's approximately 300 members. The Corner's staff members are also now even more

motivated to organize events and make the Corner an even great learning opportunity for all the people of Chittagong.

### **American Corners Commemorate 9/11**

On September 11, Bangladesh's three American Corners in Chittagong, Jessore and Sylhet held events commemorating the anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11. More than 100 university students, teachers and members of the general public attended the viewing of the PBS documentary, *Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero*. The film was followed by a discussion which provided them a better understanding of events of that day, America's response and resilience, and our shared experiences with terrorist attacks and shared efforts to combat this terrorism. IIP materials were also distributed.

Weekly visitors (not including event attendees): Chittagong-85, Jessore-72, Sylhet-62.

### **Thirty-three Complete American Corner's New English Language Course in Jessore**

On September 13, thirty-three Bangladeshis of all ages were awarded certificates for successful completion of new English language course in Jessore. A new initiative of the Jessore American Corner, in partnership with the Jessore Institute Public Library, the Corner's host institution, the three-week 36-hour course covered English basics. Students started the class with little or no knowledge of English, but were highly motivated and committed to develop their English skills for professional development purposes. The course, taught by professional English language instructors, was met with great interest. More than 50 community members applied for the 33 available slots, which were filled on a first come first served basis. The Corner plans to continue and expand the program. Approximately 75 community members attended the certification ceremony including special guests Sheikh Rabiul Alam, General Secretary of Jessore Institute's Public Library; Assistant General Secretary M.A. Motin Siddique; Library Secretary Advocate Mahabub Alam Baccu; and other notable members of society.